

Regional University Excellence Trust Fund
Programs of Distinction
2003 Annual Reports

Purpose

The Programs of Distinction were funded in the 1998-2000 biennium through the Regional University Excellence Trust Fund. As outlined in the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997*, one of the objectives of the RUETF is to enable each comprehensive university to become nationally recognized in at least one academic program of distinction or one applied research program. Funds were transferred to each institution's base budget in FY 2000-01.

The RUETF PODs are:

- Eastern Kentucky University: Justice and Safety
- Kentucky State University: Aquaculture
- Morehead State University: Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy
- Murray State University: Telecommunications Systems Management
- Northern Kentucky University: Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics
- Western Kentucky University: Applied Research and Technology and Media for the Twenty-First Century

Trust Fund Allocation

The PODs were funded at \$6 million in FY 1997-98 and in each year of the 1998-2000 biennium. These funds were to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the institutions with external funds or through internal reallocation. The 1999-2000 funds were transferred to each institution's base budget. The amounts allocated by state appropriation for fiscal year 2002-03 were:

Eastern Kentucky University	\$1,405,700
Kentucky State University	464,000
Morehead State University	897,800
Murray State University	1,070,500
Northern Kentucky University	739,000
Western Kentucky University	<u>1,453,300</u>
Total	<u>\$6,030,300</u>

Program Accomplishments

POD funds have created new teaching and research opportunities for faculty statewide and purchased equipment that meets industry standards. These efforts have helped recruit outstanding faculty and students. Students are working directly with faculty on research projects. The PODs connect with local P-12 institutions, collaborate with other campus departments and universities, and create partnerships with communities.

Eastern Kentucky University

- EKU's POD includes the College of Justice and Safety. The college has 42 full-time faculty, including five faculty positions funded by the RUETF.
- The college is EKU's leader in obtaining federal, state, and private external funding for research, public service, and teaching projects. The college received 26 awards in FY 2002-03 totaling over \$29.5 million.
- The college hosted several conferences and workshops in FY 2002-03. An international conference focused on the academic field of police studies and included participants from a variety of U.S. universities and 16 different nations representing western and eastern Europe, South America, Africa, and Australia.
- The college is engaged with high schools through the efforts of its Center for School Safety. The center provides programs in alternative education, intervention services, school resource officers, and community-based programs.
- The college established a partnership with the Kentucky School Boards Association to create a Justice and Safety Youth Leadership Conference. This multi-day leadership program targets high school juniors across Kentucky to cultivate interest in postsecondary education and justice and safety careers. Online follow-up activities are being developed.
- The college engaged in extensive collaboration with 53 local, state, and federal agencies and institutions in 2002-03. Examples include the Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Department of Corrections, U.S. Army Armor Center, Ft. Knox, University of Louisville Center for the Deterrence of Bio-Warfare and Bio-Terrorism, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Consumer Products Safety Commission, and Hospital Cooperation of America.
- The institution reported revenue in FY 2002-03 of \$3,124,100 for the POD. Expenditures of \$2,627,900 were reported. Unexpended funds in the amount of \$496,200 were transferred to an endowment dedicated for the POD. Therefore, no carry forward was reported for the program.

Kentucky State University

- KSU's POD is the Aquaculture Research Center, the only one of its kind in the Commonwealth. The center has six faculty teaching graduate level courses, supported by 35 research ponds and a hatchery building with a state of the art histology lab, wet lab, and analytical equipment.
- In FY 2002-03, seven grants were funded, for a total of \$438,004 in external funding.
- A new faculty position has been developed to focus on aquaculture genetics. As many universities offering aquaculture programs do not offer fish genetics, KSU recently created an Internet course for U.S. and international students. Twenty students from six states and three countries are currently enrolled.
- Kentucky's preeminence in aquaculture led to Louisville's successful bid to host the 2002-03 national aquaculture conference. KSU provided a Webcast of its 29 faculty and staff presentations.
- A national Telly Award was presented to the aquaculture program for an information videotape designed for prawn farmers. The videotape, along with a complementary print guide, has been distributed to farmers in 41 states and 18 foreign countries via the Web. The Telly is a national award honoring local and regional cable T.V. commercials and programs.
- With the support of research and extension work, catfish production acreage has increased over 200 percent statewide since 1999. There also are substantial increases in production acreage of freshwater shrimp, paddlefish, and largemouth bass.
- The program assists 67 Kentucky high schools in aquaculture activities and courses statewide.
- The program's first master's degree was conferred May 2002. This is the first new graduate degree offered by KSU in over 20 years and the first science-based graduate degree ever offered by the university.
- The program hired an electronic media coordinator and maintains a Web site (<http://www.ksuaquaculture.org>) to support industry and aqua-farming efforts statewide.
- KSU reported revenue of \$2,225,900 in FY 2002-03. Expenditures of \$1,265,800 were reported for the program, leaving a carry forward balance of \$960,100 for FY 2003-04.

Morehead State University

- MoSU's POD is the Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy. IRAPP is divided into two divisions (Academic Programs and Applied Research, Service, and Policy) to better integrate teaching, applied research, and public service activities to address economic development and social issues affecting eastern Kentucky, Appalachia, and rural America in general.
- IRAPP established a dual degree program (BA/MPA) with the University of Kentucky's Martin School of Public Policy, whose MPA program is ranked in the top 10 nationally. This dual program allows IRAPP students to simultaneously work on their BA and MPA through concurrent enrollment. In May 2003, two MoSU graduates were admitted to the UK program for the current academic year, and two students will apply for fall 2004 admission.
- The Center for Virtual Appalachia links users to Appalachian data, resources, history, and culture. In 2002-03, CVA attracted over 4.7 million hits—a 175 percent increase of the previous period.
- IRAPP received \$3 million in new grants in 2002-03. Six were federal proposals for \$2.8 million; two were state proposals for \$130,116; and five were local government, corporate, and foundation proposals for \$16,655. The average award amount for IRAPP during FY 2002-03 was \$229,497.
- IRAPP offers five bachelor's degrees (environmental science, geography, government, social work, and sociology), including a unifying core of six courses. Two master's programs (biology and sociology) emphasize regional analysis and public policy in addition to the core courses.
- IRAPP has seven full-time faculty and two administrators of faculty rank. Forty-two students are currently enrolled, with 24 registered as freshmen and sophomores.
- *The Atlas of Appalachia* is being developed for CD ROM, with support from Western Kentucky University, UK, East Carolina University, and Marshall University. The atlas will be released on CD ROM in early 2004 to allow for inclusion of selected 2000 census data. Portions will be available on the Web.
- The Office of Economic Development and Research Outreach will be created as a joint program between MoSU's College of Science and Technology and IRAPP. This effort will connect research to regional needs and provide the type of telecommunications infrastructure necessary to make eastern Kentucky competitive in the information age economy. IRAPP will deploy two weather stations, manage a weather database and archive, and conduct related research of value to the region.

- Through an award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, IRAPP will establish a Community Outreach Partnership Center in January 2004.
- In FY 2002-03, MoSU reported revenue of \$3,364,000 for the POD. Expenditures for FY 2002-03 totaled \$2,207,400, leaving a carry forward balance of \$1,156,600 for FY 2003-04. Carry forward funds are being used to renovate office and instructional space and seed research opportunities to establish collaborative projects with the U.S. Department of Defense and Homeland Security.

Murray State University

- MuSU's POD is the Center for Telecommunications Systems Management program. During FY 2002-03, the program had nine full-time faculty, five in the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology and four in the College of Business and Public Affairs.
- Thirteen faculty were involved in collaborative research and teaching on behalf of the TSM program.
- During FY 2002-03, 207 students were enrolled—22 pursuing associate degrees, 143 baccalaureate degrees, and 42 master's degrees.
- External grants totaling \$500,000 were awarded to the program during FY 2002-03. Funding sources include the U.S. Department of Education, Agilent Technologies, and BellSouth.
- TSM sponsored a successful national conference in Louisville and hosted a regional Digital Communities Conference on Economic Development.
- TSM is initiating an online master's program and developing online access for junior and senior level coursework. Additionally, 19 online short courses for professionals in need of re-tooling and training in telecommunications technology have been offered.
- Faculty founded the National Academic Telecommunications Education Association to provide opportunities for collaboration and interaction nationally.
- Faculty are advising the Economic Development Board of Crittenden County to build an educational training center and working with the Madisonville Community College and the Crittenden County School District on the Training Center Curriculum Development Task Force.

- TSM participates in the Telehealth Project, which is creating nine sites in rural Kentucky equipped with diagnostic and communication equipment for medical specialists to use in patient interaction and employee training.
- TSM is providing leadership for the Connect Kentucky Project to assess the Commonwealth's new economy infrastructure.
- The program is hosting four career days to introduce 200 high school students to careers in information technology fields and establishing a high-tech laboratory on MuSU's campus to support high school students who attend training days and summer workshops.
- TSM continues to develop and maintain the largest database of online telecommunications links in the world (www.eXroads.com). This database consists of over 27,000 links and receives 30,000 hits per month. This database is a primary source for businesses and organizations seeking telecommunications information.
- In FY 2002-03 MuSU reported total revenues of \$2,549,800 for the POD. Expenditures of \$2,376,500 were reported for FY 2002-03, leaving a carry forward balance of \$173,300 for FY 2003-04.

Northern Kentucky University

- NKU's POD is the Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics. CINSAM is not a degree-granting program, but a program that coordinates activities in research, teaching, and outreach across NKU's College of Education and College of Arts and Sciences' Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics, and Geology.
- CINSAM funds 10 full-time faculty to accomplish its mission; however, 55 faculty participated in CINSAM activities in FY 2002-03.
- Approximately 1,600 NKU students participated in CINSAM-related activities in FY 2002-03.
- In October 2001, a collaborative proposal between CINSAM and UofL earned a \$6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. The grant funds the Kentucky Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network. This network increases statewide collaboration between biomedical researchers and educators to more effectively compete for federal research funds and to better prepare students for science-related careers.

- A second joint CINSAM/UofL project received \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education in January 2002. A second FIPSE allocation totals \$1.2 million. The project is entitled "Urban University's Partnership for Mathematics and Science Teaching."
- In FY 2002-03, CINSAM offered over 40 outreach programs and day camps for local P-12 students and teachers that led to over 3,300 contacts between school teachers and NKU faculty.
- CINSAM has established an articulation partnership with UK to attract more pre-engineering students at NKU into engineering programs at UK.
- With support from a federal grant, a partnership with UofL delivered integrative science and math development and a nighttime constellation science experience for P-12 and college students during the day through a joint satellite connection in Australia.
- CINSAM is expanding outreach activities to schools in the six counties south of NKU, including an increase in summer school offerings in science and mathematics and a residential field science camp.
- The program is working with NKU's Institute for New Economy Technologies to carry out a feasibility study for companies or agencies that could make use of NKU's scanning electron microscopy facilities. A similar facility will be explored to provide greater access to NKU's analytic chemistry instrumentation. In both facilities, undergraduate students will assist experienced faculty members in carrying out meaningful work of an industrial nature, which further supports the region's economic growth.
- In FY 2002-03 NKU reported revenue of \$1,749,100 for the CINSAM program. Expenditures for that fiscal year totaled \$1,749,100, leaving no carry forward balance for FY 2003-04.

Western Kentucky University

- WKU has two PODs, the Applied Research and Technology Program and the Center for Twenty-First Century Media, which includes the School of Journalism and Broadcasting and the Forensics program.
- The ARTP consists of more than 77 faculty working with more than 313 students in teaching and research activities. More than 28 multidisciplinary projects involve more than 50 local, state, federal, and private corporations or agencies. External grants funding totaled \$4,475,534.

- ARTP is collaborating with the National Park Service/Mammoth Cave National Park to establish a Center for International Science and Learning, which will conduct projects addressing educational programs and management of parks.
- ARTP hosted the International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems, a four-day conference at Western Kentucky University and Mammoth Cave National Park. "Karst" refers to ground with rock, like limestone, beneath it. It is formed by dissolving rock and often results in sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage. The conference, the most significant karst meeting held anywhere in the world in 2003, enabled students to interact with leading scientists from 16 countries.
- ARTP secured a \$2 million grant to fund a new Environmental Control Technology Laboratory, a collaboration of WKU, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, and the National Energy Technology Laboratory.
- ARTP has outfitted and staffed a mobile van that provides training and emergency services to industries in the event of chemical spills or other biohazards.
- ARTP is monitoring mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants in order to assist them in meeting new EPA emission standards.
- ARTP is participating in a unique consortium (including WKU's Center for Water Resource Studies, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Armed Forces Institute for Pathology) to assist two Chinese universities in implementing solutions to public health problems in China.
- ARTP has established an exchange program with South Africa to involve students and faculty in studying and aiding the protection of endangered South African wildlife.
- ARTP faculty initiated a campus science organization to recruit women into science and engineering. The organization, Women Interested in Science and Engineering (WISE), sponsored Girls in Science Days, at which 80 fifth through eighth grade girls participated in a variety of hands-on science activities on the WKU campus to increase interest in attending college and science-related careers.
- In FY 2002-03 WKU's ARTP reported total revenues of \$13,767,400. Expenditures for the program were \$7,252,100, leaving an accumulated carry forward balance of \$6,515,300 for FY 2003-04.

- The Center for the Twenty-First Century Media promotes excellence in journalism, broadcasting, and other forms of communication. It has 37 faculty (22 full-time/15 part-time), with three funded through POD. Fall 2002-03 enrollment stands at 1,084 undergraduate majors and 46 minors.
- The center was awarded three external grants totaling \$1,334,000 in FY 2002-03. One grant, sponsored by U.S. AID, provides \$1.3 million to train broadcast journalists from Cambodia and Indonesia.
- The center works closely with the Kentucky High School Journalism Association and sponsored its formation six years ago. The association promotes college and journalism careers among Kentucky high school students. Two WKU faculty members serve as association advisors and are completing the articulation agreement for a joint WKU and high school academic course on desktop publishing.
- The School of Journalism and Broadcasting consistently earns high national rankings and recognition. The *College Heights Herald* recently won both the Pacemaker Award from the Associated Collegiate Press and the Gold Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association—the “Pulitzer Prizes” for college newspapers.
- The photojournalism program won first place overall in the prestigious William Randolph Hearst Intercollegiate Photojournalism national competition.
- In FY 2002-03, the forensics team earned both national and international recognition in an unprecedented sweep of all the major collegiate speech and debate championships: The National Forensics Association title, the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament, the International Forensic Association Tournament, and the Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha National Tournament.
- In FY 2002-03, the center reported revenue of \$2,005,300. Expenditures for the program totaled \$1,275,100, leaving a carry forward balance of \$730,200 for FY 2003-04.